



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:
Curt Brantingham
Public Relations Manager
Indiana Office of Tourism Development
cbrantingham@VisitIndiana.com
(317) 233-0611

First-Ever Travel Leadership Summit Connects Travel Industry, Congress

Indiana Lt. Governor Attends Dinner with State Tourism Partners

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Participants from the Indiana tourism industry recently attended the first-ever Travel Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C, sponsored by the Travel Industry Association (TIA). More than 1,000 travel industry leaders from across the nation participated, including 130 members of Congress and numerous governors, lieutenant governors and mayors. Indiana Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman attended a dinner hosted by the Indiana delegation. Congressman Mike Sodrel and Congressman Mike Pence also attended.

The two-day summit on September 12 and 13 was designed to provide travel industry leaders with an opportunity to directly communicate with policymakers about key issues that impact travel and tourism.

“Visitors spend \$9 billion in Indiana each year and more than 264,000 jobs in the state are related to tourism,” said Lt. Gov. Skillman, who oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism of Development. “Tourism is an important contributor to Indiana’s economy.”

The summit also provided industry representatives the chance to meet with their members of Congress to discuss issues important to their respective states. Members of the Indiana tourism delegation met with representatives from the offices of Senator Richard Lugar, Senator Evan Bayh, Congressman Chris Chocola and Congressman John Hostettler.

Members of the Indiana delegation who attended the summit:

Randy Ballinger, Walnut Creek Golf Course; Marion, IN
Speros Batistatos, Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)
Bob Bedell, Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association (ICVA)
Matt Carter, Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association (ICVA)
Vic DeMeyer, Lake County CVB
Jim Epperson, Harrison County CVB
Marilee Fowler, Evansville CVB
Dick and Ruth Johnson, Johnson Ventures, Columbus
Jim Keith, Clark-Floyd Counties CVB
Karla Lawless, Putnam County CVB
Diana Lawson, Elkhart CVB

Brenda Myers, Hamilton County CVB
Jeff Patchen, President, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
Jeanne Stanbaugh, Terre Haute CVB
Jo Wade, Lafayette/West Lafayette CVB
Lorelei Weimer, Porter County CVB
Amy Vaughan, Indiana Office of Tourism Development
John Livengood, Indiana Hotel Lodging Association

TIA is the national, non-profit organization representing all components of the \$646 billion travel industry. TIA's mission is to represent the whole of the U.S. travel industry to promote and facilitate increased travel to and within the United States.

Source: Travel Industry Association of America (TIA)

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. Amy Vaughan serves as the agency's Director.

Indiana Tourism Fast Facts

- Visitors spend \$8.91 billion in Indiana each year.
- Annually, Indiana welcomes 59 million people to the state.
- 264,960 jobs in Indiana are related to tourism.